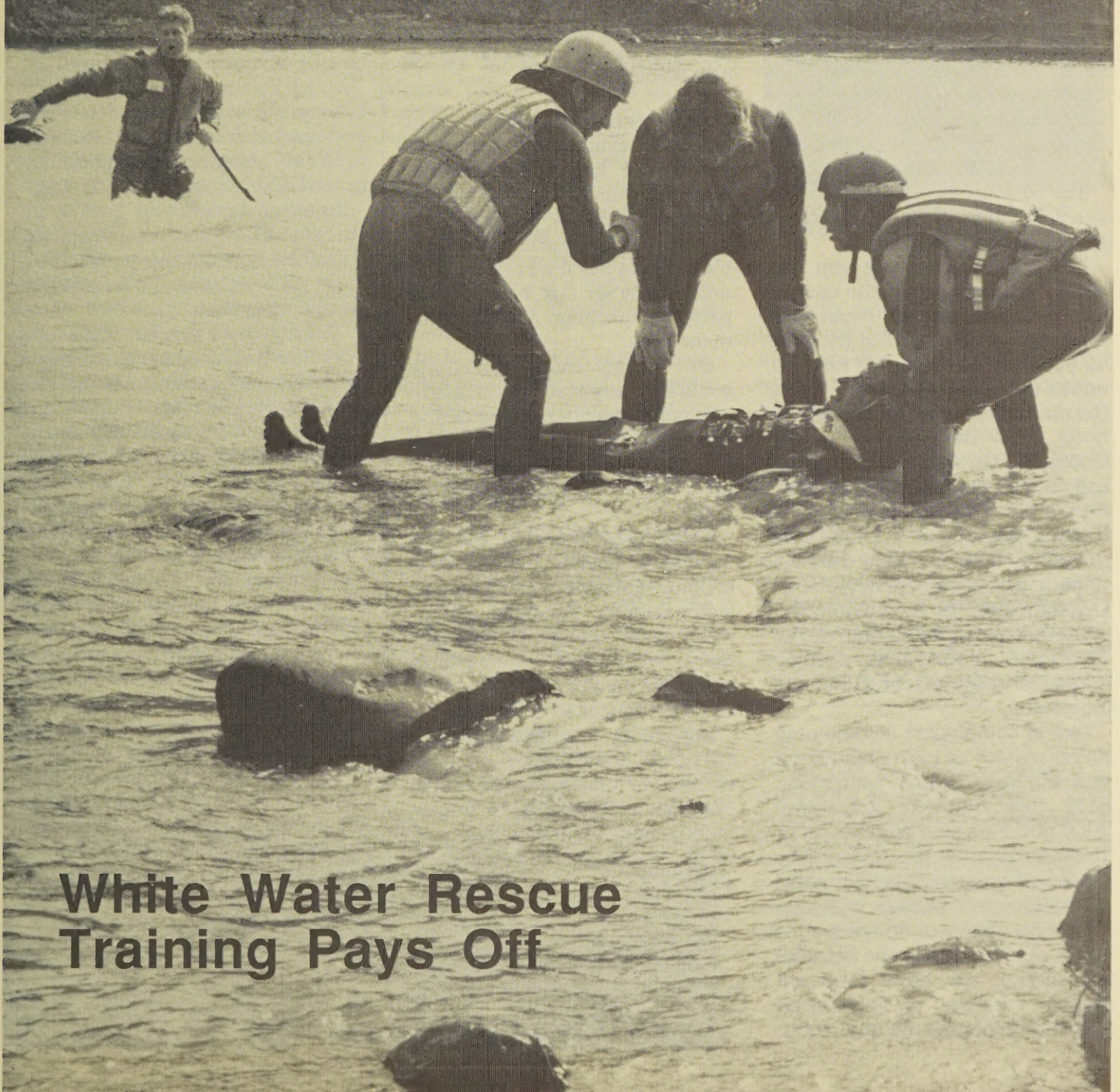


# ALASKA PEOPLE

JULY 1989

VOLUME X

NUMBER VIII



**White Water Rescue  
Training Pays Off**



# Alaska BLM Gears Up for Increased Resource Use

With my background as a forester, I was extremely pleased last September when the State Director reassigned me as the Deputy State Director for the Division of Lands and Renewable Resources.

The Resources staff is involved in a wide range of land and renewable resource programs.

In the coming decade you will see a large increase in the uses of our public lands and renewable resources in Alaska. For the past 20 years, BLM's role has focused on the conveyance of land to meet the mandates of the Alaska Statehood Act, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and other legislation. As the selection portion of the conveyance process is nearing closure, we are now able to identify blocks of land that will remain under our management. Depending on the final resolution of the land selections, there will be 75-90 million surface acres to be managed under our multiple use mandates.

Two of the biggest forthcoming increases will be in the recreation and wildlife programs. Nationally, BLM has initiated Recreation 2000 and Fish and Wildlife 2000. These programs are designed to guide and promote development of recreation and wildlife management opportunities on the public lands. As followup to the national documents, we have prepared Alaska versions of Recreation 2000 and Fish and Wildlife 2000.



*Bishop Buckle, Deputy State Director for the Division of Lands and Renewable Resources*

In recreation and wildlife, as in other programs, we must go through a long, cumbersome, and often disappointing budget process to obtain project funding. However, we shall overcome these obstacles if we are creative and timely in our activity and project planning. A good document sells.

One of my more immediate goals is for my staff specialists to work closely with managers and their staffs to aid in producing quality plans that will have high potential for garnering needed funds.

Other programs that will see increased activity include hazardous materials management, water rights, trespass abatement, and easement management. Withdrawal review efforts will continue at a level necessary to meet mandated deadlines.

Ending on a personal note, I am proud of the positive attitude of the BLM folks in Alaska and of everyone's dedication to proper management of the diversity of resources under our stewardship.

*Pronounced ha nie' yee, hanaayee is Koyukon Athabaskan for "reporter" or "one who talks."*

## BLMers Make Their Mark

*by Rob McWhorter*

Nearly 19,000 hours of volunteer or community service time were donated by Alaska BLM employees last year. According to statistics compiled from questionnaires sent out by BLM's Volunteer Coordinator Bob Moore, 181 BLM employees tallied an average 1,574 hours per month of volunteer work time.

Activities spanned a huge range of interests from little league to search and rescue, from Special Olympics to Rotary, from wildlife rehabilitation to sexual assault counseling.

Principal benefitting groups included: charities, communities, churches, schools, students, clubs, sports, telethons, professional groups, and libraries.

"Twenty-three percent of the total work force reported participating in volunteer or community service work during the year," said Moore. "That reflects an amazingly generous and community-oriented spirit on the part of BLMers. Every community and benefitting organization should be proud to have these kind of folks in their town."

When told of the results of the questionnaire survey, BLM State Director Mike Penfold said, "I am really impressed with this information. BLMers do not take a back seat in volunteerism to any group of people I've ever been associated with. Each of you can be justifiably proud of the contributions you have made and continue to make. This is one aspect of the government employee which has rarely been noted. President Bush's 'thousand points of light' concept of people helping people is vigorously alive in the 'Great Land'."



# China looks to BLM for Land Use Planning

by Rob McWhorter

**Think land use planning is tough in Alaska, where different interests are constantly augering for their particular brand of use? How about planning for future land uses in a place where every acre is spoken for and the needs of over a billion people must be taken into account.**

Denver Service Center Director Bob Moore and five other prominent BLMers were invited by the Chinese government to visit China this spring and compare notes with Chinese planners. The overall objective was to determine the feasibility of sharing BLM's resource inventory and planning technology with the Chinese.

"BLM was chosen by the Chinese to participate because they felt our operations and planning process approximated theirs more closely than other U.S. agencies," says Moore.

Moore stopped in Anchorage on his way back home from China for an information resources management meeting, and shared the following observations about China and Chinese planning with us.

At the national level, the

Chinese have the State Land Administration, while each province has a land management bureau. The coordination effort was mostly focused at the provincial level and the next lower level, roughly equivalent to our county level government.

The Chinese passed a new state law in 1986 which in many ways is similar to our Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). This law requires planning for land uses and was designed to address the gradual loss of agricultural lands. According to Moore, "they noticed their agricultural lands being eaten up by non-agricultural uses. This is a particularly critical problem in China not only because of all the mouths to feed, but because only 10 percent of the land mass is arable. Planning for the use of the limited land resources is a logical necessity, in view of these competing pressures."

The BLMers visited various locations including Beijing, Chengdu, Guangzhou, Lanzhou, Shanghai and others too difficult to spell or pronounce. Translators and facilitators were provided all along the way. The U.S. State Department assisted the group, as well.

The similarities in the U.S. and Chinese planning processes are stronger than the differences. While the basic unit of land area is the mu, about 1/6 of an acre, the soil and other resource invento-



*Denver Service Center Director Bob Moore on his way home from China*

ries, the proposed allocations of lands and the final allocation decisions are strikingly like the BLM's nine steps to an RMP (Resource Management Plan).

The BLM group observed one draft map which portrayed proposed allocations, setting aside so much land for construction, so much for mining, agriculture, and so forth. Computer-wise, micros are used almost exclusively. Their acute shortage of computer hardware is made up for by ingenious software. Most of the mapping work is manual and labor intense.



*Richard Cellarius, chairman of the board of the Sierra Club and a professor of biophysics at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, was in Alaska recently to take a firsthand look at resource issues. (left) Alaska State Director Mike Penfold explains BLM programs to Cellarius.*



# Swiftwater Rescue Training Pays Off

by Danielle Allen

No sooner had State Trooper Scott Waggoner completed swiftwater training and returned to his Fairbanks detachment then he was called to rescue a woman and her two children from the flooding Chena River.

Trooper Waggoner was one of a group of federal, state and municipal employees who recently took the swiftwater course to learn about river safety and rescue techniques.

To put the course together, Anchorage District fire management officer Jack Lewis contacted Rescue 3, a national organization based in Sonora, California, devoted to river and floodwater training. Jim Segerstrom, a medic with Rescue 3, taught the three week class with Lewis assisting.

During the first week of training, BLM employees from the Anchorage, Glennallen and Steese/White Districts, were taught how to survive eddies, boils and the swift current of Eagle River. Eagle River is a popular class II river just outside of Anchorage.

Besides BLM employees, other participants were primarily law enforcement officials improving their rescue skills. Teaching participants how to rescue themselves was an important class assignment.

"Self rescue and safety are major components of the class," says Lewis. "In any river incident, it's important that you be able to take care of yourself.

"Just being thrown from a boat or canoe, depending on the river conditions can be a less perilous or traumatic situation if people know what to expect and are prepared," says Lewis. "First of all, always wear a lifejacket." Lewis is never without one on the river.

"Wearing a lifejacket doesn't mean you won't get a mouthfull of

water or air," says Lewis. "A lifejacket will take you through waves, not over them."

Another important procedure is to have your feet extended in front of you as you go down the river. This will allow you to use your feet to push off hidden rocks and obstructions. This posture also allows you a better view of the river and opportunity to respond to what's coming up.

Knowing what and when **not** to do something means getting out of cold water as soon as possible. The 42 degree waters of Eagle River would leave a victim incapacitated after 15 minutes, says Lewis, whose training cadre were clad in wet and dry suits.

While cold water contributes to drownings, other factors also figure prominently.

Panic claims many victims. Survivors have later commented that they could hear rescuers from the bank but panic left them

unable to work their arms and legs.

Another killer is alcohol. It contributes to 60% of all drownings. Alcohol and drugs hamper a person's ability to respond in crisis situations.

Loaded with all these facts and practical experience on Eagle River, the training course culminated in a simulated multi-victim rescue where the participants had to determine what to do when several victims were in need of help. This is when the week of learning about river hydraulics and safety techniques had to come together.

Lewis says, "They did a fine job. They were so excited about what they learned, I couldn't get them out of the water.

"By having all the agencies involved with aquatic river training we're working toward a better and more effective response system," says Lewis.



Swiftwater rescue students practice carrying an injured victim out of Eagle River.

photo by Danielle Allen



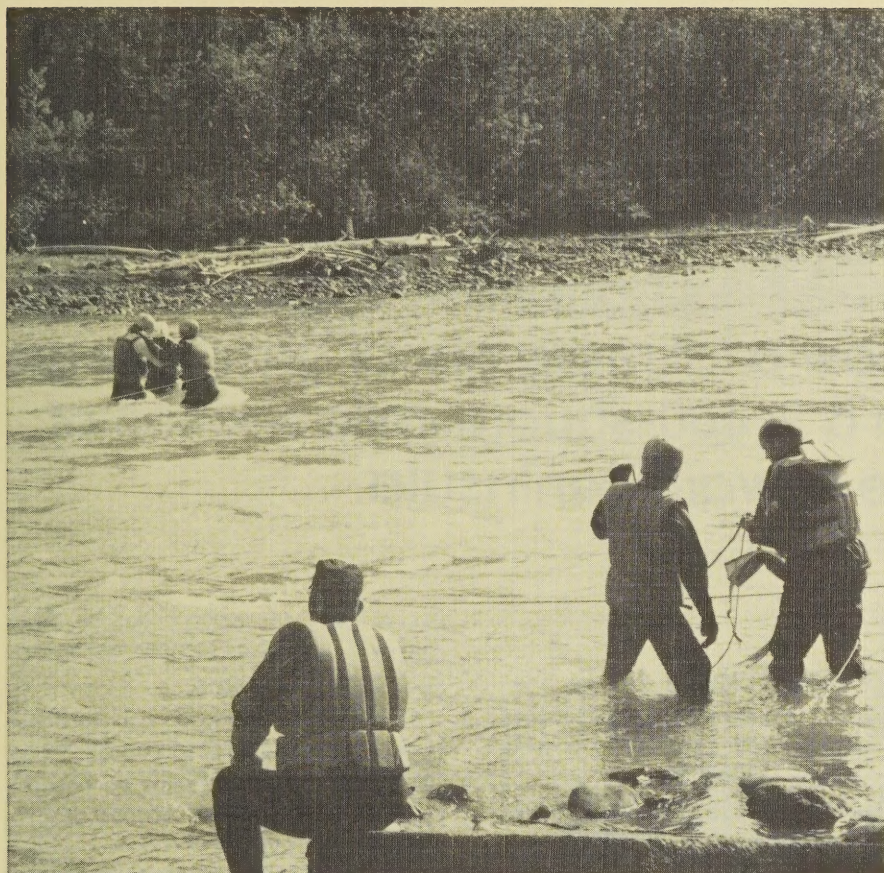


photo by Danielle Allen

*The swiftwater rescue students practice using rescue techniques.*

## BLM River Patrol Rescues Boaters

by Ed Bovy

**Four people floating the Gulkana River during the July 4th weekend are home safe after a boating mishap, thanks to the quick thinking of BLMers Sean Regain, Debbie McAtee, Jake Schlapfer and Student Conservation Aid Mike Robertson.**

Regain and McAtee had just completed a swiftwater rescue class the week before and were able to put their new knowledge into action.

The victims' 15-foot Riker raft turned sideways and wrapped around a large boulder in Canyon Rapids. "They took too large a boat through a narrow rapids," said Regain, a seasonal employee in

the Glennallen District. Two men managed to stay with the boat but the two women traveling with them were thrown out into the current just above Canyon Rapids.

"I threw them a throw line as they floated by, but they apparently didn't see me," said Regain. "They went through the rapids and popped up down below."

"It looked like they weren't going to help themselves," said Schlapfer, "so I jumped in. I asked the first woman to grab hold of my arm, but she wouldn't. I grabbed her by the lifejacket and swam to get the other lady. Since it was shallow in spots, I was able to push off from the riverbed and swim to shore. On the way back I got their fishing gear."

"There are some strainers (log jams) below the rapids and they would have been in serious trouble if they had been trapped in

a log jam.

"After we got the women out of the water, we went back upstream to get the men and their gear across. We rigged a pulley system with ropes. The first guy came across in a makeshift harness. The other man stayed with the boat and we rigged a two-pulley line to the bow and tied it to a high tree. We finally got the boat pulled free," said Regain.

Both Schlapfer and Regain have whitewater experience, but Regain also credits the rescue course he just completed. "If I hadn't taken the swiftwater rescue course, I don't think that I would have been confident enough to jump up and say 'I've been trained, and we can handle this,'" he said.

"The course was right on target. For example, you assume that the victims will assist in their own aid but the course taught us not to expect any help from anyone around you including the victims.

This was exactly what happened. "There were about 20 people on shore by the time it ended," said Debbie McAtee.

"This crowd didn't want to help," said Regain. "The victims were cold and needed a fire to warm up, but no one wanted to leave the shore. They all stood there waiting too see the people get rescued or get hurt. Finally, one of our crew, Mike Robertson built a fire," said Regain. McAtee ran interference for him as someone in the crowd kept suggesting how to do it better...just as the course predicted.

Ironically one of the victims was a wilderness instructor.

"Each BLM river patrol should include at least one person who has completed the swiftwater rescue course," said McAtee. "Next year, we should station people at Canyon Rapids for the whole July 4th weekend."

"There actually were two rescues that weekend. The next day another party got stuck in a hydraulic and we pulled them out too," said McAtee.



# G • R • I • Z

**Five years from now, biologists will know a lot more about grizzly bears on a 2, 400-square-mile section of the Seward Peninsula.**

*by Ed Bouy*

Last month BLM's Kobuk District and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game launched a new cooperative study.

Fifty-three bears were tagged in a six-day period in early June. Twenty-six were fitted with radio collars. "This was the first time anyone has done any systematic surveys of bears on the Seward Peninsula. We knew they were

there but we didn't know how many," says Kobuk District biologist Scott Robinson.

The team utilized up to four spotter planes to find the bears as they emerged from their mountain dens to roam about on the snow-covered ground.

"All the bears we captured were ear-tagged and back-up identification numbers were tattooed inside their lips. We took all basic body measurements and some blood samples. Biologists will be monitoring the movements of the bears by aircraft all summer, tracking the radio collar signals to find out where the bears go," says Robinson.

How do you weigh a grizzly bear in the field? By helicopter, and very carefully of course. The animal is loaded in a sling scale and raised by the helicopter. "For one bear, the pilot had to use full power. Later when we left, he used only 95 percent power. This meant that the bear weighed more than the three biologists and all their gear...more than 600 pounds!" says Robinson. Some of the smaller ones weighed only 225 pounds.

"Next year we will go back and do more collaring. We will identify a representative 800-square-mile area to conduct a population estimate. We will determine the size of the population by comparing the



*Kobuk District biologist Scott Robinson examines a tranquilized grizzly.*





*How do you weigh a grizzly bear?...by helicopter*

number of tagged to untagged animals.

"Once we know where they are and where they go, we can better analyze the impacts of activities proposed in the region. Whenever the chances of people contacting bears increases, there's trouble and the chances of having to destroy a bear increase.

"Just like anywhere else, habitat loss is a key consideration in the survival of a species. We're particularly interested in knowing where crucial denning areas and salmon feeding streams are located so that human activities can be modified to increase the bears' chances for survival," says Robinson.

## Nap Time for the Bruin

"Tranquilizing animals takes some special skill and training and I usually let the State Fish and Game people do it," says Kobuk District biologist Scott Robinson.

"We dart the larger bears from a helicopter and they take off running. If the animal is a sow with cubs, the cubs will follow but they can't keep up. When they fall behind, someone has to grab them and put them in a gunny sack. We'll dart them through the bag. It can be quite comical to see biologists chasing a bear cub that can outrun them, even in the snow.

"Once they go down, you have to be cautious when first approaching them. We will yell at them, then get closer and throw snow in

their face and finally give them a few pokes. If they are out, they will stay out long enough for us to do our work.

"The animals' breathing and temperature are monitored constantly. We had a weapon and additional tranquilizing drugs with us in case anything unexpected happened. But everything went as it should.

"Normally we let the bear wake up naturally. We don't administer any counter drug. Someone will go back a day later and either observe the bear visually or track its movement by radiotelemetry. That way we know the animal is ok," says Robinson.



# Ask the Oracle

by Mel Williams

The Oracle of Delphi gave vague, easily misunderstood predictions to the ancient Greeks. Training's Oracle will give quick, straightforward information on almost any training topic imaginable.

Thanks to Oracle, the cumbersome old training process used by BLM today will soon be a thing of the past in Alaska. Oracle is the new data base management system scheduled to go online in the state training office sometime in FY'90. When it does, Standard Form 182s will no longer be required, and anything you ever wanted to know about training will be available at the touch of a button.

For its' primary user group, the Organization Effectiveness (EO) staff, Oracle is probably the greatest computer event of the decade. Once its customers know the right buttons to push, Oracle will be able to spit out information on almost any training-related topic imaginable.

Housed among the billions of characters stored in the system's 40 megabytes of hard disk memory will be the complete BLM

Training Catalog. From this formidable document, Oracle will be able to pull up specific course information by vendor, subject matter, title or course number. In addition, a few simple keystrokes will display any employee's individual training plan or personal training history.

Oracle's special reports capability will allow management to accurately track a variety of training related issues. For example, they will be able to see at any time just how much has been spent on training to date, including travel and per diem. They will also be able to tell how many training instances were planned, how many have actually occurred and how many courses have been cancelled.

A particularly endearing feature of Oracle is its ability to generate correspondence. If a course is in your training plan and your plan is in the system, Oracle will definitely be in touch. Oracle-generated memos will thoughtfully inform you that you've been accepted to a course, or that the course has been cancelled or postponed.

After the course, other missives

will inform you gently but firmly that course evaluations must be completed and returned to the OE section if attendance is to be credited in your training history. Oracle knows just when to generate these notices, so that you always know what to do and when to do it.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of Oracle is that it simplifies processes and reduces paper-flow. In addition to automating the SF-182, the system will reduce the number of steps involved in updating the training catalog and recording individual training plans. In the future, this information may simply be filed on floppy disk and sent to the training office for input. More likely, it will be entered directly into the system from the field. Oracle will eventually communicate via electronic mail, instead of sending out paper reminders of upcoming training events.

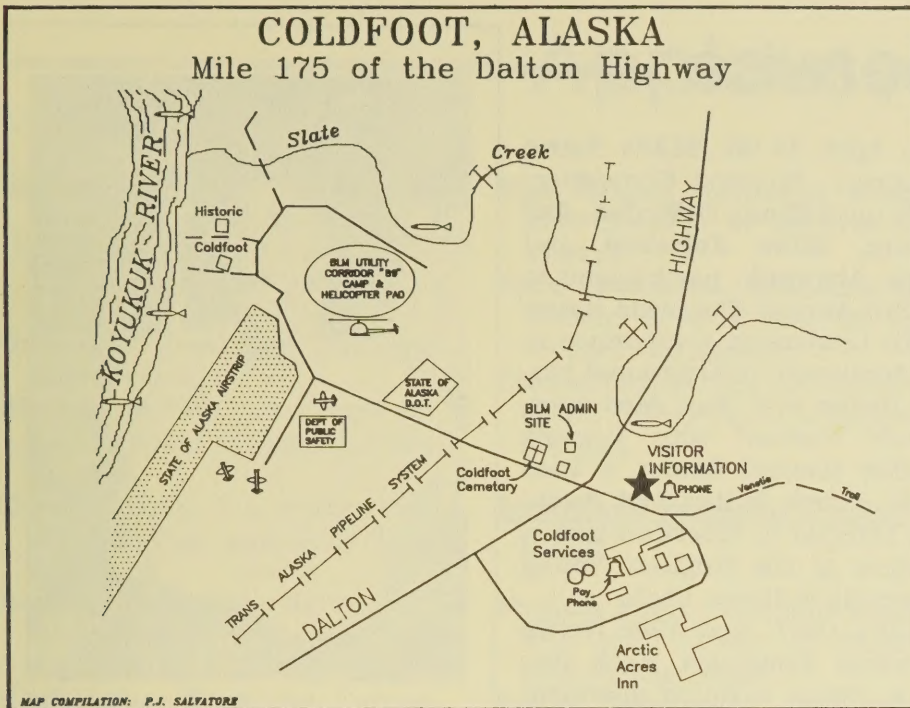
However it does what it does, the new automated training system, Oracle, will make the job simpler, faster and easier for everyone and that means savings for BLM.



*The annual Glennallen summer picnic was marred by 85-degree heat, clear blue skies and only a few sleepy mosquitoes. Despite the high risk of sunburn and dehydration, everyone tried to have a good time. Highlights included a cake baked by K.J. Mushovik with a special "Public Lands USA" logo made from blueberries, cherries and marshmallows; a guest appearance by former Glennallen seasonal Trish Lindamann who came up from 110-degree heat in Utah to cool off; and some wild volleyball games under "Alaska jungle" rules that changed each game.*

*District Manager Gene Keith and ASO's Ed Bovy retired as undefeated horseshoe tossing champions.*





## Utility Corridor Camp—1989

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

A new BLM camp has sprung up 58 miles north of the Arctic Circle in the rolling foothills of the Brooks Range. Tucked within the small development node of Coldfoot, the white canvas, quonset-style tents of the Cadastral survey bush camp look like a long, semicircle of Conestoga wagons forted up for the night's encampment. But unlike a wagon train, this camp will be stationary until late August, and it has an entirely different purpose.

Baseline data is the key word describing the intent of more than 27 BLM resource specialists who are in the field inventorying resources throughout the 2.7 million-acre Utility Corridor.

They are concentrating on the area from Prospect to Disaster Creek as they collect data on fisheries habitat, recreation opportunities, the river systems and their watersheds, wildlife habitat, cultural and archaeological sites, minerals, timber and water quality.

This data will provide the information to measure future impacts that might be caused by specific

land uses in the area. The data will also provide information for several activity management plans to be developed for the Utility Corridor area.

By using a multi-discipline approach to the inventory, BLM is ensuring that each designated stream and river is evaluated for all facets of resource management.

Roy Masinton, natural resource specialist with the Arctic District, is the project coordinator for Utility Corridor '89. He is assisted by Jim Silva as assistant project lead and aircraft coordinator, and Jim Sisk, who is working as the back-up for both positions. The twelve-tent camp, borrowed from and constructed by BLM's Cadastral unit, contains sleeping quarters, facilities for cooking, eating, showering, laundry, an office and a communications center.

The resource specialists will work in crews using the Utility Corridor '89 camp as their base. They will be supported by a myriad of volunteers and support staff. Crews will work 10 days at a time through August 16 when the camp closes.

## Child Care Update

"The Federal Executive Association's child care project is progressing well," says Child Care Program Coordinator Susan DiPrete. "We've received seventy-plus requests for the child care Service Plan Proposal and twenty two interested childcare providers attended the pre-proposal conference on June 13." The application period closes June 30.

A panel made up of representatives from FAA, BLM, the Management Initiatives Committee, parents and an early childhood professional will evaluate the proposals during July. "They will be looking for the highest quality program at the most feasible cost," says DiPrete.

Providers were asked to submit a technical proposal as to how they plan to set up the center and a separate cost proposal. The panel will look at the technical proposal first.

Selecting the site is a separate process through GSA. As lead agency providing the "seed money," the FAA submitted a space request to GSA May 12. The target area is between 5th and 9th Avenues and Cordova and G Streets with a target date of opening the first facility this fall.

In order to expedite the space acquisition process, a representative of the FAA's Real Estate Branch and Susan DiPrete will assist GSA with a market survey of available properties and leased comparables in the downtown area. GSA will provide the technical expertise during this process.

If all goes well, another center will be made available in the midtown area sometime in the future.

We hope to have the center provide for approximately 60 children between the ages of six weeks and six years," says DiPrete.

If you have questions regarding the child care project, give Susan a call at 271-5413.



# Workwise or Otherwise

The **Northern Alaska Advisory Council** elected Karen Cedzo, director of University Relations at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, as its new chair at a June 1 public meeting. Gary Lee, a land specialist for Doyon, Inc., was elected vice-chair.

Five new members were introduced at the meeting: Ron Davis (Fairbanks - recreation), Rex Blazer (Fairbanks - Environmental Protection), Walter Sampson (Kotzebue - Wildlife), Chris Birch (Fairbanks - Transportation/Rights-of-Way), and Frank Geiger (Delta-Elected Official/General Purpose Government).

After hearing presentations from the three northern districts on 3809 surface management protection and recreation programs, the council passed a resolution supporting the Steese/White Mountains District's efforts on the Nome Creek project, which includes building an access road into the White Mountains National Recreation Area and campground facilities and trails within the area.

The **BLM warehouses are stocking a new bear repellent** called "Counter Assault." The product, manufactured by Bushwacker Backpack Supply of Missoula, Montana, comes in various size cartridges. The proper name of the substance is "Oleoresin Capsicum" which is derived from the dried ripe fruit of the capsicum annum plant. In common terms, capsicum produces 26 different types of "pepper," including cayenne pepper.

While not lethal, it can turn a bear and immobilize a human.

On April 24-26, BLM's Native American Program Committee, made up of **Ebony DeRoque, Jeff Nelson, Mike Johnson** and **Ralph Ahgupuk**, participated in the 8th Annual Statewide Native Youth Leadership Conference at the Anchorage International Inn. The theme was "Past Memories, Future Visions" with keynote speaker Howard Rainer, a Taos Pueblo-Creek Indian and Assistant Director of American Indian Services at the Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

BLM's 1987 and 1988 Native American Emphasis Week displays, photos of Native allotment field examinations at Aleknagik, the Resource Apprenticeship Program for Students (RAPS) video, and BLM handouts were all available at the conference. **Ann Johnson**, Chief of Calista Adjudication, and **Marilyn Polasky**, Land Law Examiner, presented a workshop on BLM's role in land conveyance.

BLM Deputy Director **Roland G. Robinson** will leave his present post and assume the post of Regional Director, Upper Colorado Region, Bureau of Reclamation in Salt Lake City, Utah, effective July 17, 1989.

On May 18, **House of Representative Bill #2435** was introduced "To provide that a demonstration project be conducted to test flexi-place work arrangements for federal employees, and to provide for the establishment of a program to facilitate the exchange of information relating to job-sharing arrangements among federal employees."



## McPherson Awarded FWP Scholarship

Teresa McPherson, editorial assistant for ASO Public Affairs, has been awarded a Federal Women's Program scholarship of \$500.

The Anchorage Federal Executive Association/Federal Women's Program awarded six scholarships this year. She is the first Alaska BLMer to win the scholarship. McPherson is a freshman studying toward a bachelor's degree in journalism and public communications at the University of Alaska, Anchorage.

She worked for the Army Corps of Engineers for three years as a branch secretary before joining BLM public affairs last December.

"I was shocked to win the scholarship," says McPherson. "This is the third year I've applied."

She plans to take a speech class and two journalism classes in the fall while continuing to work for BLM.

"I've been going to school part-time for two years at my own expense. It will be great not having to worry about tuition this fall."



# Applause

## Length of Service

### 10 Year Award

**John Jozifek**, Cartographic Technician, ASO Division of Support Services

**James W. Deninger**, Geologist, Kobuk District

**Michael Birtles**, Land Surveyor, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

**David Vickery**, Supervisory Public Affairs Specialist, ASO Public Affairs

**Barbara Masinton**, Natural Resource Specialist, Steese/White Mountains District

**Christopher Workman**, Carpenter, ASO Division of Support Services

**Thomie Gardner**, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Information Resource Management

### 20 Year Award

**Betty Jeanne Pulkownik**, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Mineral Resources

**Ella Wright**, Technical Writer, ASO Division of Mineral Resources

**Nora Vanassche**, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

**Charlotte Hall**, Support Services Clerk, ASO Division of Support Services

### Sustained Superior Performance

**Virginia Ezell**, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

**Bruce Ogonowski**, Land Surveyor, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

**Grath Olson**, Supervisory Cartographic Technician, ASO Division of Information Resource

### Quality Increase

**Paul Moss**, Land Surveyor, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

## Special Act

**Ralph Mojica**, Office Services Assistant, ASO Division of Support Services

### On The Spot Cash Award

**Craig Altop**, Wildlife Biologist, ASO Division of Renewable Resources

**Terrance O'Sullivan**, Outdoor Recreation Planner, ASO Division of Renewable Resources

**Ann Adams**, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

**Connie Ancheta**, Clerk-Typist, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

**Rita Wehrman**, Lead Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

**Helen Cameron**, Miscellaneous Documents Clerk, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

**Shirley Macke**, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Renewable Resources

## WELCOME ABOARD (June 1989)

**John Morris**, Clerk-Typist, ASO Division of Support Services

**Bill Ferguson**, Forestry Technician, AFS

**Bruce Nelson**, Supervisory Forestry Technician (Smokejumper), AFS

**Lawrence Sutton**, Forestry Technician, AFS

**Jan Burris**, Natural Resource Specialist (Student Trainee), ASO Division of Renewable Resources

**Janis Herbert**, Purchasing Agent, ASO Division of Support Services

**John Grantland**, Electronic Digital Computer Mechanic, ASO Division of Information Resources Management

**Robert James**, Computer Systems Programmer, ASO Division of Information Resources Management

**James P. Dixon**, Communication Specialist (Student Trainee), ASO Division of Information Resources Management

**Bruce D. Aspray**, Communication Specialist (Student Trainee), AFS

**William Beach**, Computer Science (Student Trainee), AFS

**Irene Garcia-Sandoval**, Secretary (Typing), ASO Division of Conveyance Management

**Louis Jones**, Apprenticeship & Training Representative, Arctic District

**Keith Primm**, Student Trainee (Land Surveyor), ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

**Marshal Wade**, Student Trainee (Land Surveyor), ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

**Marge Wheeler**, Secretary (Typing), ASO Division of Renewable Resources

**Peter Boyle**, Cartographic Technician, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

**Elinor Fransson**, Secretary (Typing), ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

**George Hernandez**, Clerk Typist, ASO Division of Mineral Resources

**Jacob Schlafer**, Student Trainee (Natural Resources Specialist), ASO Division of Renewable Resources

**Brit Primm**, Student Trainee (Land Surveyor), ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

## MOVING ON (June 1989)

**Barry Noll**, Civil Engineer, ASO Division of Support Services.

**Aurea Duboc**, Cartographic Technician, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

**Charlene A. Heath**, Secretary (Typing), AFS

**Sheryl Rust**, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management



# The Soviets Visit Kotzebue

by Mary Leykom

When 68 visiting Soviet officials and citizens arrived in Kotzebue aboard the first Aeroflot flights to visit Alaska since the 1940s, they needed local transportation. The May 10 visit was in conjunction with the completion of the Bering Land Bridge expedition.

Six Soviets and six Americans, including Eskimos from both sides of the Bering Straits, traveled 1,200 miles by ski and dog sled from Anadyr, U.S.S.R., to Kotzebue.

Since the BLM van was among the largest vehicles in town, Kobuk District's Kotzebue office was happy to loan it to help with transportation of the group. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee Victor Karmun drove the van.

The visiting dignitaries received a rousing reception at the airport when their two Aeroflot planes arrived. It was followed by a big celebration at the high school and lunch at the middle school. Finally, the Soviets could get down to the important thing: shopping.

The A.C. store conveniently of-

fered 110-220 volt converters to encourage the purchase of electronic items, by far the most interesting to the guests. The Hanson Trading Company had a sign out saying "everything in the store 20% off," written in Russian.

In the arctic tradition, many visitors were invited into private homes for coffee or lunch, and much trading of small gifts occurred all over town. The U.S. State Department received an urgent call to extend the visas when it proved impossible to round up the visitors in time to return to Soviet airspace within the six-hour time limit. A three-hour extension was granted, but the visitors missed that by about an hour when one of the aircraft would not start.

In another show of neighborliness, townspeople lined up several car batteries on the airport ramp and jump-started the plane's engine.

Citizen diplomacy dissolved the differences between the two cultures, and the visit was a heart-warming experience for both sides.

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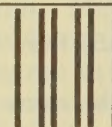
## On the Cover:

*A group of federal, state and municipal employees recently took an Anchorage District BLM sponsored swiftwater rescue course to learn about river safety and rescue techniques.*



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